

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel Claims 1 to 4, 10 to 16 and 22 to 24 without prejudice or disclaimer of subject matter contained therein, and amend the claims as shown below. The claims, as pending in the subject application, read as follows:

1. to 4. (Canceled)

5. (Currently Amended) ~~The system according to claim 1, further comprising~~ A management system for managing an industrial machine using a data communication network, comprising:

a management apparatus for selectively giving an operation right of the industrial machine to one of a first operation apparatus arranged in a factory where the industrial machine is installed and a second operation apparatus arranged at a remote site from the factory where the industrial machine is installed;

a control apparatus for operating the industrial machine in accordance with an instruction from the operation apparatus to which the operation right has been given by said management apparatus and providing information representing an operation condition of the industrial machine to the operation apparatus; and

a limiting section for limiting contents of operation of the industrial machine by the first operation apparatus through said control apparatus when the a manager of the industrial machine is a manager of the second operation apparatus.

6. (Currently Amended) ~~The system according to claim 1, further comprising~~ A management system for managing an industrial machine using a data communication network, comprising:

a management apparatus for selectively giving an operation right of the industrial machine to one of a first operation apparatus arranged in a factory where the industrial machine is installed and a second operation apparatus arranged at a remote site from the factory where the industrial machine is installed;

a control apparatus for operating the industrial machine in accordance with an instruction from the operation apparatus to which the operation right has been given by said management apparatus and providing information representing an operation condition of the industrial machine to the operation apparatus; and

a limiting section for limiting contents of operation of the industrial machine by the second operation apparatus through said control apparatus when the a manager of the industrial machine is a manager of the first operation apparatus.

7. (Currently Amended) ~~The system according to claim 1, further comprising~~ A management system for managing an industrial machine using a data communication network, comprising:

a management apparatus for selectively giving an operation right of the industrial machine to one of a first operation apparatus arranged in a factory where the industrial machine is installed and a second operation apparatus arranged at a remote site from the factory where the industrial machine is installed;

a control apparatus for operating the industrial machine in accordance with an instruction from the operation apparatus to which the operation right has been given by said management apparatus and providing information representing an operation condition of the industrial machine to the operation apparatus; and

a security system for making information related to the operation of the industrial machine by the first operation apparatus secret to the second operation apparatus and making information related to the operation of the industrial machine by the second operation apparatus secret to the first operation apparatus.

8. (Original) The system according to claim 7, wherein said security system makes some or all pieces of information, which are secret to the second operation apparatus, public to the second operation apparatus in accordance with an instruction from the first operation apparatus and makes some or all pieces of information, which are secret to the first operation apparatus, public to the first operation apparatus in accordance with an instruction from the second operation apparatus.

9. (Original) The system according to claim 8, wherein when the operation right of the industrial machine is given to the first operation apparatus, said security system makes the information representing the operation condition of the industrial machine public to the second operation apparatus in accordance with an instruction from the first operation apparatus, and when the operation right of the industrial machine is given to the second operation apparatus, said security system makes the information representing the

operation condition of the industrial machine public to the first operation apparatus in accordance with an instruction from the second operation apparatus.

10. to 16. (Canceled)

17. (Currently Amended) ~~The method according to claim 13, further comprising the~~ A management method of managing an industrial machine using a data communication network, comprising:

a management step of selectively giving an operation right of the industrial machine to one of a first operation apparatus arranged in a factory where the industrial machine is installed and a second operation apparatus arranged at a remote site from the factory where the industrial machine is installed;

a control step of sending an instruction from the operation apparatus to which the operation right has been given in the management step to a control apparatus of the industrial machine to cause the control apparatus to control the industrial machine and sending information representing an operation condition of the industrial machine from the control apparatus to the operation apparatus; and

a limiting step of limiting contents of operation of the industrial machine by the first operation apparatus through the control apparatus when the a manager of the industrial machine is a manager of the second operation apparatus.

18. (Currently Amended) ~~The method according to claim 13, further comprising the~~ A management method of managing an industrial machine using a data communication network, comprising:

a management step of selectively giving an operation right of the industrial machine to one of a first operation apparatus arranged in a factory where the industrial machine is installed and a second operation apparatus arranged at a remote site from the factory where the industrial machine is installed;

a control step of sending an instruction from the operation apparatus to which the operation right has been given in the management step to a control apparatus of the industrial machine to cause the control apparatus to control the industrial machine and sending information representing an operation condition of the industrial machine from the control apparatus to the operation apparatus; and

a limiting step of limiting contents of operation of the industrial machine by the second operation apparatus through the control apparatus when the a manager of the industrial machine is a manager of the first operation apparatus.

19. (Currently Amended) ~~The method according to claim 13, further comprising the~~ A management method of managing an industrial machine using a data communication network, comprising:

a management step of selectively giving an operation right of the industrial machine to one of a first operation apparatus arranged in a factory where the industrial machine is installed and a second operation apparatus arranged at a remote site from the factory where the industrial machine is installed;

a control step of sending an instruction from the operation apparatus to which the operation right has been given in the management step to a control apparatus of the industrial machine to cause the control apparatus to control the industrial machine and sending information representing an operation condition of the industrial machine from the control apparatus to the operation apparatus; and

a security step of making information related to the operation of the industrial machine by the first operation apparatus secret to the second operation apparatus and making information related to the operation of the industrial machine by the second operation apparatus secret to the first operation apparatus.

20. (Original) The method according to claim 19, wherein in the security step, some or all pieces of information, which are secret to the second operation apparatus, are made public to the second operation apparatus in accordance with an instruction from the first operation apparatus, and some or all pieces of information, which are secret to the first operation apparatus, are made public to the first operation apparatus in accordance with an instruction from the second operation apparatus.

21. (Original) The method according to claim 20, wherein in the security step, when the operation right of the industrial machine is given to the first operation apparatus, the information representing the operation condition of the industrial machine is made public to the second operation apparatus in accordance with an instruction from the first operation apparatus, and when the operation right of the industrial machine is given to the second operation apparatus, the information representing the operation condition of the

industrial machine is made public to the first operation apparatus in accordance with an instruction from the second operation apparatus.

22. to 24. (Canceled)